



The Prince's Countryside Fund Rural Four Grant Programme Eligibility and guidance document 2019

Introduction

The Rural Four Grant Programme, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, will provide funding of up to £25,000 to projects operating in England, Wales and Scotland that aim to improve the wellbeing of isolated communities in deprived rural areas.

We want our funding to have a long term positive impact on rural communities, helping those that live and work there to sustain the countryside, by tackling key rural issues.

10 rural communities will be awarded funding each year. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate evidence of need as well as evidence of the community working together to address the challenges faced by isolated rural communities.

1. Criteria for Application

Type of applicant

Applications are accepted from (please note this list is not exhaustive):

- Charities.
- Community Benefit Society.
- Community Interest Companies.
- Companies limited by guarantee.
- Not for profit organisations.
- Social enterprises.
- Unincorporated associations.

NB: These must be ratified by time of application.

The Prince's Countryside Fund will not accept applications from individuals, private businesses, or the following organisations:

- Statutory bodies, such as local authorities, NHS bodies, or work where there is statutory responsibility to provide funding.
- Religious bodies where the funding will be for religious purposes.
- Political organisations where the funding will be used for political purposes.

Applications are particularly sought from projects that meet the following criteria:

- Communities in sparse areas with a ranking of 40% or lower on their respective Housing Indices of Deprivation.
- Population of under 2,500 residents.
- Communities with an ageing population and limited number of working age people remaining in or moving to the area.



Type of activity

Organisations can apply for up to £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) which can be spent on:

- Salaries
- Volunteers
- Staff training costs
- Rent and utilities bills
- Internal refurbishment (fittings and fixtures)
- Purchase of equipment

Please see our [case studies](#) for examples of projects we have previously funded; these are not prescriptive and we welcome a wide range of applications.

We cannot fund the following types of projects:

- Applications for capital funding for the purchase of buildings or land or for major external renovation.
- Applications for planning permission, surveys or feasibility studies.
- Applications for projects where planning permission has not been granted at the time of applying.
- Care Farms.
- Projects where the work has begun and money has been spent in anticipation of receiving funding.
- Projects where the funding would displace existing government funding streams, such as agri-environment schemes.
- Projects which do not demonstrate sufficient public benefit and in which private benefit is more than incidental.

Timescale of planned activity

Please note that the project must have commenced and be open or ready to use by the end of 2019. Any funding applications that fall outside these dates will not be considered for this scheme. We are unable to fund any activity that took place prior to the date of the grant agreement.

2. Funding

The Prince's Countryside Fund's Trustees on occasion may only offer part funding (when this is the case revised outputs will be agreed if applicable).

- The Fund can pay for a portion or all the costs of a project
- The Fund will consider applications for match funding.
- The Fund will not support projects wholly dependent on its funding for over three years.

After your initial payment, funding will be made in six monthly instalments following the receipt of a written report detailing the satisfactory completion of the outcomes to date. (See section on reporting later in the document). In the case of small grants, funding may be awarded in a single payment. Please note that the outcomes and reporting structure will be agreed between both parties prior to start of the funding.

If the applicant requests more than £25,000, they may be eligible to apply under our grant programme.

3. Decision making process

All applications must be completed using our online application form. No supplementary information will be accepted.

All applications will be considered by The Prince's Countryside Fund's Board of Trustees quarterly. Some supplementary information such as business plans may be requested during the reviewing process.

Funding will not be provided if doing so would damage the name or reputation of the Fund or if the Trustees have other good grounds for refusing funding.

Funding decisions are final. Unfortunately, due to the sheer volume of applications and the extremely small administrative team individual feedback cannot be provided.

Funding will be conditional upon the recipient agreeing to the Fund's grant conditions.

4. Reporting

If successful in your funding application, grant beneficiaries will be required to provide details of progress against previously agreed set targets every six months. These targets must be met before additional tranches of funding will be released. This will enable The Prince's Countryside Fund to monitor how effectively grant funding is being used and report to People's Postcode Lottery. [Please click here to view an example report template.](#)

Grant beneficiaries will also be required to share the results and lessons learned from their work with others, so that successful projects may be replicated elsewhere. These results will also be communicated by The Prince's Countryside Fund and People's Postcode Lottery through case studies, to demonstrate the impact that the charitable funding has had and to maximise its effectiveness.

All Grant beneficiaries will be required to help communicate and promote The Prince's Countryside Fund and People's Postcode Lottery support.

Conclusion

If you would like to discuss your project with a member of The Prince's Countryside Fund team, please contact Sophie Middleton on grants@countrysidefund.org.uk / 0207 566 6615.